

Dear Mr (b) (6)

Thank you for your patience – our resources are limited and there has been a tremendous amount of interest from the study participants – I’m sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you with answers to your hard questions. Clearly there’s a broad interest in the answers to the questions we’re getting about this subject.

First of all, let me explain that EPA writes and enforces regulations based on Laws and Acts created by the US Congress. We value public participation, we encourage people to be informed and to participate at every level of this decision making process.

In response to your question about the precautionary principle, EPA does not use the precautionary principle, instead we use a risk assessment approach. We’ve funded at least one study on implementing the precautionary principle, but to date I have not heard that the agency intends to change our policies.

In response to your question about chemical trespass, to my knowledge it is not directly addressed in any of the laws EPA enforces. EPA has primary responsibility for registering pesticides and “product” compliance (production, sales, marketing, import/export) while states usually have primary authority over the “use” of pesticides. These responsibilities are established by law.

Finally, an educated and informed public can make use of the information found in the links provided below:

Our Pesticides website includes information on ways the agency is working to regulate and reduce exposure to pesticides:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>

Here is additional information on public involvement in pesticide regulatory actions:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/registration-public-involvement.html>

Here are some of the laws covering pesticides that form EPA’s regulations:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/laws.htm>

Here is some information about EPA’s responsibility for pesticides:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/index.htm>

Here is a link to EPA’s environmental justice work:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/plan-ej/index.html>

You can search EPA’s “frequent questions database:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/faq.htm>

Or you can ask a question of the EPA librarians:

<http://publicaccess.supportportal.com/ics/support/ticketnewwizard.asp?style=classic>

And you may already know that the Oregon Health Authority maintains a website for the Triangle Lake / Hwy 36 Pesticide Study:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/TrackingAssessment/EnvironmentalHealthAssessment/Pages/Highway36TriangleLakeExposureInvestigation.aspx>

I hope this information is of use to you.

Sincerely,